

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 717

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize James D. Cope upon his induction into the Pickett Care and Rehab Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause in their deliberations to salute those citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is James D. Cope, who was recently inducted into the Pickett Care and Rehab Hall of Fame, which recognizes “Hometown Heroes” for their dedication to helping others; and

WHEREAS, a Pickett County native, Mr. Cope was born on June 25, 1924, to James Alexander and Maude Cope; and

WHEREAS, courageously answering the call to duty, James Cope served in World War II as a heavy truck driver with the United States Army, touring through northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe; and

WHEREAS, his valiant efforts earned Mr. Cope many honors and awards, including the American Theater Ribbon, the EAME Ribbon, a Bronze Star, a Good Conduct Medal, and a Victory Medal; and

WHEREAS, upon his release from the military, Mr. Cope began working for the Firestone Tire Company in Akron, Ohio, where he would remain for nine years; and

WHEREAS, when he returned to Byrdstown in 1958, James Cope leased and operated a very successful gas station, in addition to maintaining buses and driving a bus route for the local school system; and

WHEREAS, always pursuing the next venture, Mr. Cope also had a welding business, operated a farm, and served with the County Highway Department; and

WHEREAS, a highly valued and active member of the community, James Cope was elected as a Pickett County Trustee in 1966, in which position he made great strides to improve the lives of his fellow citizens while promising to serve a single but very efficient term in office; and

WHEREAS, upon completing his term as Trustee, Mr. Cope offered his skills and expertise to the State Highway Department, where he served on a committee to recruit manufacturing to the area and successfully persuaded the Wrangler Boot Company to establish a new factory in Byrdstown; and

WHEREAS, he would eventually become plant manager of the Wrangler plant, leading the operations of the facility and its workers until its closing in 1982; and

WHEREAS, a new chapter began with the opening of the Y Trading Post, a bait and grocery store owned by Mr. Cope, which satisfied the needs of consumers in the Star Point and Eagle's Cove areas for nearly a decade; and

WHEREAS, a respected and committed community leader, he worked for the county in public service from 1997 to 2004; and

WHEREAS, aside from his dedication to his career and public service, James Cope is a devoted family man and has enjoyed many years of love and companionship with his wife, Hilda Story Cravens, and their children, Larry Cope, Edward Cope, Brenda Cravens Cross, Pattie Cravens Davis, and Paula Cope Amonett; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cope epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure upon the dedication of individuals like Mr. Cope, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend James D. Cope for his meritorious service

to the citizens of the State of Tennessee, congratulate him upon his induction into the Pickett Care and Rehab Hall of Fame, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.